Attorney's Docket: <u>2002DE438</u>

Serial No.: N/A

Art Unit N/A

Preliminary Amendment prior to Examination

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following:

## Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates to copolymers of formula (I) wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen, a  $C_1$ - $C_5$ -alkyl radical or  $C_2$ - $C_5$ -alkenyl radical which can also contain heteroatoms, an acid group or an aliphatic or aromatic group comprising 1 - 50 carbon atoms, including an acid group,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  independently represent hydrogen, methyl and/or ethyl, n ranges from 0 - 100, and m ranges from 3 to 30, and k ranges from 1 - 200, and A is hydrogen, an acid group, a  $C_1$ - $C_5$ -alkyl radical or a  $C_2$ - $C_8$ -alkenyl radical which can also contain heteroatoms, an aliphatic or aromatic group comprising 1 - 50 carbon atoms, including an acid group, or a copolymer unit of formula (II), wherein  $R^4$  is hydrogen, a  $C_1$ - $C_5$ -alkyl radical or a  $C_2$ - $C_5$ -alkenyl radical which can also contain heteroatoms, an acid group or an aliphatic or aromatic group comprising 1 - 50 carbon atoms, including an acid group,  $R^5$  is hydrogen, methyl and/or ethyl, x ranges from 0 to 100, and y ranges from 3 -30, wherein, if A is formula (2),  $R^1$  represents hydrogen or an acid group.